

House File 646 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 646

BY STAED

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to vision screenings, examinations, services,
2 and supplies for children.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.39D, subsections 1 and 5, Code 2019,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. The parent or guardian of a child shall ensure
4 that the child is screened for vision impairment as early as
5 possible, but no later than the child's first year in any
6 public or private education program or a child care facility as
7 defined in section 237A.1. Such public or private education
8 program shall include but is not limited to child development
9 assistance programs provided under chapter 256A, special
10 education programs provided under section 256B.9, school ready
11 children grant programs and other programs provided under
12 chapter 256I, and federal head start programs. The person who
13 performs a vision screening required pursuant to this paragraph
14 "a" shall report the results of the vision screening to the
15 department pursuant to subsection 4.

16 b. The parent or guardian of a child to be enrolled in a
17 public or accredited nonpublic elementary school shall ensure
18 that the child is screened for vision impairment at least once
19 before enrollment in kindergarten and again before enrollment
20 in grade three. The parent or guardian of the child shall
21 ensure that evidence of the vision screening is provided to the
22 school district or accredited nonpublic school in which the
23 child is enrolled. Evidence of the vision screening may be
24 provided either directly from the parent or guardian or from a
25 vision screening provider referred to in subsection 2, and may
26 be provided in either written or electronic form.

27 5. Each public or private education program or child care
28 facility and public and accredited nonpublic elementary school
29 shall, in collaboration with the department, do the following:

30 a. Provide the parents or guardians of children and students
31 with vision screening referral resources.

32 b. Arrange for evidence of vision screenings provided
33 pursuant to subsection 1 to be forwarded to the department.

34 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 514C.35 Vision coverage.

35 1. Notwithstanding the uniformity of treatment requirements

1 of section 514C.6, a policy or contract providing for
2 third-party payment or prepayment of health or medical
3 expenses shall provide coverage for the costs associated with
4 vision screenings, examinations, vision therapy, and services
5 and supplies including glasses or contacts for children,
6 as determined medically necessary by the optometrist or
7 ophthalmologist.

8 2. *a.* This section applies to the following classes of
9 third-party payment provider contracts or policies delivered,
10 issued for delivery, continued, or renewed in this state on or
11 after July 1, 2019:

12 (1) Individual or group accident and sickness insurance
13 providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis.

14 (2) An individual or group hospital or medical service
15 contract issued pursuant to chapter 509, 514, or 514A.

16 (3) An individual or group health maintenance organization
17 contract regulated under chapter 514B.

18 (4) Any other entity engaged in the business of insurance,
19 risk transfer, or risk retention, which is subject to the
20 jurisdiction of the commissioner.

21 (5) A plan established pursuant to chapter 509A for public
22 employees.

23 *b.* This section shall not apply to accident-only, specified
24 disease, short-term hospital or medical, hospital confinement
25 indemnity, credit, dental, Medicare supplement, long-term care,
26 basic hospital and medical-surgical expense coverage as defined
27 by the commissioner, disability income insurance coverage,
28 coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance,
29 workers' compensation or similar insurance, or automobile
30 medical payment insurance.

31 Sec. 3. CHILD VISION SCREENING WORK GROUP — REVIEW. The
32 child vision screening work group shall review the requirements
33 for vision screening and examination, geographically accessible
34 opportunities for the provision of required and necessary
35 vision services and supplies, and the availability of public

1 and private coverage of vision services and supplies, and
 2 shall report key findings and recommendations to the governor
 3 and the general assembly by November 15, 2019, to increase
 4 the percentage of children receiving vision screenings,
 5 examinations, and medically necessary services and supplies at
 6 as early an age as possible in the state. For the purposes of
 7 this section, "child vision screening work group" means the
 8 group of eye health professionals in the state established
 9 by the director of public health and comprised of licensed
 10 ophthalmologists, licensed optometrists, representatives
 11 or designees of leading vision organizations, and other
 12 stakeholders as determined by the director.

EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill requires that, in addition to existing
 17 requirements for the parent or guardian ensuring that a child
 18 to be enrolled in a public or accredited nonpublic elementary
 19 school is screened for vision impairment at least once before
 20 enrollment in kindergarten and again before enrollment in
 21 grade three, the parent or guardian shall ensure that the
 22 child is screened for vision impairment as early as possible,
 23 but no later than the child's first year in any public or
 24 private education program or a child care facility. The person
 25 who performs a vision screening for the additional group of
 26 children as required under the bill shall report the results of
 27 the vision screening to the department of public health (DPH)
 28 as is required for existing vision screenings. The bill also
 29 requires that each public or private education program or child
 30 care facility in collaboration with DPH provide the parents
 31 or guardians of these children with vision screening referral
 32 resources.

33 The bill requires that a policy or contract delivered,
 34 issued for delivery, continued, or renewed in the state on
 35 or after July 1, 2019, providing for third-party payment or

1 prepayment of health or medical expenses shall provide coverage
2 benefits for the costs associated with vision screenings,
3 examinations, vision therapy, and services and supplies
4 including glasses or contacts for children, as determined
5 medically necessary by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

6 The bill requires the child vision screening work group
7 to review the requirements for child vision screening and
8 examination, geographically accessible opportunities for
9 the provision of required and necessary vision services and
10 supplies, and the availability of public and private coverage
11 of vision services and supplies, and to report key findings
12 and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly
13 by November 15, 2019, to increase the percentage of children
14 receiving vision screenings, examinations, and medically
15 necessary services and supplies at as early an age as possible
16 in the state. The child vision screening work group is an
17 existing work group established by the director of public
18 health and comprised of eye health professionals in the state
19 including licensed ophthalmologists, licensed optometrists,
20 representatives or designees of leading vision organizations,
21 and other stakeholders as determined by the director.